

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 EB-07 /072 W

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R 151954Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8197

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CSAF WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

USLO SACLANT

CINC LANT NORFOLK

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CINC USNAVEUR LONDON

USDCOCOSOUTH

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06533

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, NATO, GW

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SUBJECT: NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (AEW): BRIEFING

BY DOD TEAM

REF: STATE 074902 DTG 271912Z MAR 76

BEGIN SUMMARY: TWENTY-THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FRG DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE ATTENDED AN APRIL 9 AWACS PRESENTATION AT THE EMBASSY BY AN EXCELLENT DOD TEAM. MILITARY ATTENDEES REPRESENTED THE JOINT STAFF, ARMAMENT DIRECTORATE, ARMY, NAVY AND AIR STAFFS, AND VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (FMOD) INCLUDING FINANCIAL, CONTRACTS, LEGAL AND POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS. THE THOROUGH PRESENTATION OF AWACS CAPABILITIES AND COST-SHARING PROPOSALS FOR A NATO AWACS AS PRESENTED BY DR. SHIELDS AND GENERAL RALPH WERE WELL RECEIVED BY THE FRG ATTENDEES. DURING THE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSIONS, FRG SUPPORT FOR AWACS AS A NECESSARY ADDITION TO THE ALLIANCE WAS RESTATED. HOWEVER, THE FRG REPRESENTATIVES REMAINED UNWILLING AND UNABLE TO COMMIT THEIR GOVERNMENT TO THE MILESTONES PROPOSED BY THE US. OBVIOUSLY LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ON ASSIGNING A PRIORITY TO AWACS VIS-A-VIS EITHER OTHER DEFENSE PRIORITIES OR RESOURCE ALLOCATION BETWEEN

MILITARY AND HIGH-PRIORITY CIVILIAN DEMANDS.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE BRIEFING BY GENERAL RALPH ON THE CAPABILITIES OF AWACS AND HOW IT WOULD BE UTILIZED BY NATO BROADENED FRG KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE SYSTEM. THE FRG APPEARS TO BE FULLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE CAPABILITIES OF AWACS AND ITS VALUE TO THE ALLIANCE. THE LACK OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING VULNERABILITY TO ELECTRONIC JAMMING AND INTERCEPTION BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT APPEARED TO INDICATE THAT THESE SUBJECTS NO LONGER POSE THE PROBLEM IN THE MINDS OF FRG OFFICIALS WHICH THEY DID SOME MONTHS AGO.

2. QUESTIONING CONCERNING HOW AWACS CAPABILITIES COULD BE USED BY THE FRG NAVY AND ARMY INDICATED THAT THESE TWO SERVICES REMAINED UNCONVINCED THAT THEIR SERVICES

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HAVE A REQUIREMENT FOR THE SYSTEM. THE FACT THAT AWACS HAS NEVER HAD MORE THAN A SINGLE SERVICE (I.E., THE LUFTWAFFE) REQUIREMENT BEHIND IT HAS BEEN A MAJOR OBSTACLE BLOCKING FRG PARTICIPATION IN A NATO PROGRAM.

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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USDOCOSOUTH

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06533

GENERAL RALPH MADE SOME PROGRESS IN BROADENING SUPPORT

TO INCLUDE THE OTHER SERVICES, BUT IT REMAINS TO BE

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SEEN IF HE WAS ABLE TO REMOVE ALL DOUBTS. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME GERMAN ARMY QUESTIONERS WERE CONCERNED THAT AWACS WOULD BE UNABLE TO DETECT SLOW-MOVING ENEMY HELICOPTERS.

3. DR. SHIELDS BRIEFED ON US PROPOSALS CONCERNING OFFSET ARRANGEMENTS AND NATO COST-SHARING. HE STRESSED THE FACT THAT AWACS SHOULD BE A NATO-FUNDED PROGRAM WITH ALL NATIONS PARTICIPATING. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY COMMITMENT BY MAJOR NATO COUNTRIES TO PREVENT A BREAK IN THE AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION LINE WHICH WOULD INCREASE UNIT COSTS. FINALLY, DR. SHIELDS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A COUNTRY COMMITTING FUNDS EARLY IN THE PROGRAM IF IT IS TO HAVE A SAY IN THE CONFIGURATION OR OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM. HE MADE AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, BY INDICATING THE FLEXIBILITY OF POSSIBLE FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS.

4. VERY FEW QUESTIONS WERE DIRECTED TOWARDS DR. SHIELDS. THIS CERTAINLY DID NOT REFLECT A LACK OF INTEREST IN THE IMPORTANT SUBJECTS WITH WHICH DR. SHIELDS HAD DEALT, BUT RATHER THE LACK OF AUTHORITY OF THOSE ATTENDING THE BRIEFING TO DECIDE THE GERMAN POSITION. AS THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED ON OTHER OCCASIONS, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT IS HOLDING A TIGHT REIN OVER ALL MINISTRIES INsofar AS FUND COMMITMENTS ARE CONCERNED. IN THE POLITICAL/MILITARY AREA, THIS INCLUDES NOT ONLY AWACS BUT ALSO SUCH MATTERS AS FUNDING FOR THE INITIAL STATIONING COSTS OF THE NORTHAG BRIGADE AND A FOLLOW-ON TO THE EXPIRED OFFSET AGREEMENT. IT MAY WELL BE THAT NO FRG OFFICIALS WILL BE WILLING TO GET DEEPLY INVOLVED IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW THE FRG MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN A NATO AWACS PROGRAM UNTIL THE CHANCELLOR HAS HIMSELF GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO DO SO. (THE FRG HAS, OF COURSE, DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE \$15 MILLION FUND FOR R&D ON A NATO AWACS.)

5. CONCLUSION: THE FRG NOW APPEARS TO HAVE SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF AWACS CAPABILITIES ON WHICH TO MAKE A DECISION OF WHETHER OR NOT IT WISHES TO PARTICIPATE IN A NATO AWACS PROGRAM. HAVING HAD THE BENEFIT OF THE PRESENTATIONS BY DR. SHIELDS AND GENERAL RALPH, THE

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EMBASSY DOES NOT FORESEE THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL CAPABILITY BRIEFINGS. THE QUESTION IS NOW BASICALLY A POLITICAL ONE FOR THE FRG OF WHAT SORT OF PRIORITY

SHOULD AWACS BE GIVEN VIS-A-VIS OTHER HIGH-
PRIORITY DEMANDS ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET AS A WHOLE AND ON
THE PORTION OF THAT BUDGET CONCERNING DEFENSE EXPEN-
DITURES. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE AND
WILL WELCOME FURTHER MATERIALS AND TALKING POINTS AS
APPROPRIATE.
HILLENBRAND

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